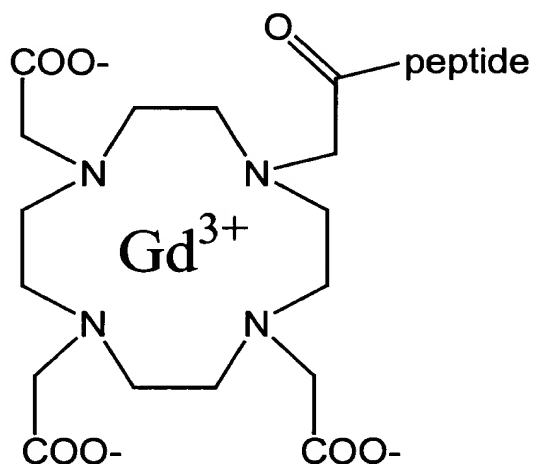


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The applicants hereby elect the species depicted below, which is a Gd(III) derivative of Structure 2 shown on page 15 of the specification:



Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 12 16 and 17 read on the species elected.

As requested by the Examiner, the applicants note that this structure corresponds in claim 2 to:

- a) A, B, C, and D all being single bonds;
- b) three of X_1 , X_2 , X_3 , and X_4 are COO^- and the other is a peptide blocking moiety;
- c) $\text{R}_1 - \text{R}_{12}$ are hydrogen; and
- d) a peptide blocking moiety comprising a $\text{-(CH}_2\text{)CO-}$ linker.

The election is made without traverse.

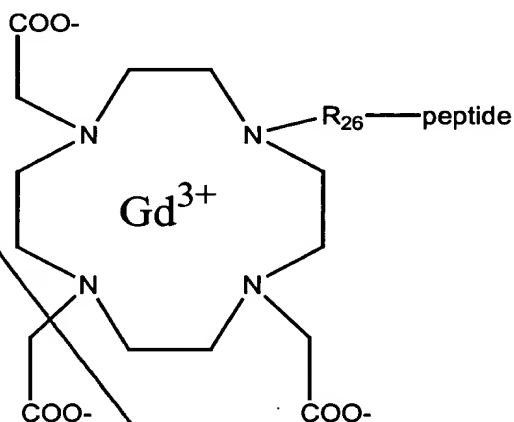
In addition, prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims:

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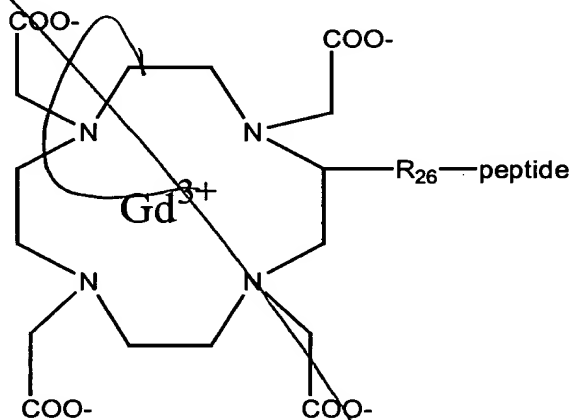
Please add the following new claims:

Sub
C1
a1
--12. An MRI agent according to claim 1 having the formula:



wherein R₂₆ is a linker.

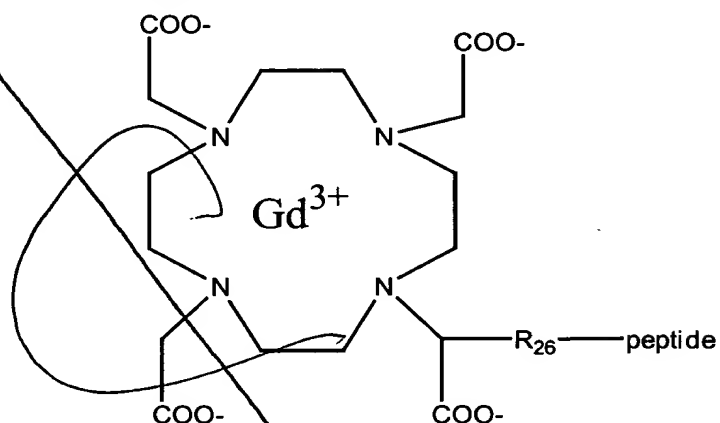
13. An MRI agent according to claim 1 having the formula:



wherein R₂₆ is a linker.

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14. An MRI agent according to claim 1 having the formula:



wherein R_{26} is a linker.

15. An MRI agent according to claim 12, 13 or 14 wherein R_{26} comprises $-(CO(CH_2)_n)-$.

- Self 13/*
16. An MRI agent according to claim 12, 13 or 14 wherein R_{26} comprises $-(CH_2)CO-$.

17. An MRI agent according to claim 16 having the formula:

